



New York District Office

News Release

Release Date: November 19, 2004
Release Number: NYDO-05-05A

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New York Small Business Person of the Year Being Sought by the SBA

New York, NY--- The New York District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration is soliciting nominations for New York State's *2004 Small Business Person of the Year*. The state winner will go on to compete for the country's most prestigious small business award--- *National Small Business Person of the Year*.

For this award the SBA is seeking companies that have demonstrated growth, success, job creation and/or retention and community involvement. The winner will be honored at a ceremony in New York next spring and then move on to a ceremony in Washington, DC during the Presidentially declared National Small Business Week.

The SBA is also searching for nominees in the following categories: Family-Owned Small Business of the Year; Young Entrepreneur of the Year; and Small Business Exporter of the Year. To honor those advocates of the small business community the SBA is also seeking nominations for: Small Business Journalist of the Year; Financial Services Champion; Minority Small Business Champion; Veteran's Small Business Champion; Home-Based Business Champion; and Women in Business Champion.

"We are looking to our economic development partners and individuals in New York City, Long Island and the downstate counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putman, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester to nominate the best and most deserving small businesses and champions for these awards," said Jose Sifontes, SBA District Director in New York. "We know that of the country's 22 million small businesses, the national winner could be from New York if our friends in economic development take time from their busy schedules to nominate," added Sifontes.

The deadline for nominations is January 4, 2004. Nominations should be submitted to the U.S. Small Business Administration, 26 Federal Plaza, Rm 3100, New York, NY, 10278, ATTN: John J. Miller. Nomination criteria, guidelines and forms can be accessed at www.sba.gov/nominationsguideline.html. Questions should be directed to John J. Miller at 212-264-7770 or john.miller@sba.gov.

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